

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 /148 W

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R 212147Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1787

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION ADJOURNS

1. EMERGENCY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, CONVENED AUG 30 TO DEAL WITH RAIL STRIKES, WILL ADJOURN THIS EVENING, SEPT 21. COMMONS WILL RESUME OCT 15. DECISION NOT TO BLOCK ADJOURNMENT TAKEN RELUCTANTLY BY PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION, MANY OF WHOM SAW POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN FORCING GOVERNMENT TO KEEP NOSE TO GRINDSTONE TO DEAL WITH COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES. HOWEVER, SINCE GOVERNMENT'S INFLATION PACKAGE PASSED, TOGETHER WITH PENSION AND WELFARE INCREASES PRESSED BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP), THERE LITTLE LEFT TO DEBATE. PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH INFLATION HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT ENORMOUS LENGTH, AND GOVERNMENT WITH NDP SUPPORT COMFORTABLY SURVIVED NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION (OTTAWA 2187). SHOULD HOUSE HAVE STAYED IN SESSION, GOVERNMENT HAD SCHEDULED DEBATE ON PAROLE AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, WHICH HARDLY ENOUGH TO KEEP PARLIAMENT IN EMERGENCY SESSION.

2. PC FRUSTRATION AT SEEMINGLY OPEN-ENDED NDP SUPPORT FOR LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY APPARENT, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OPPOSITION BENCHES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY QUERULOUS.

PC SOURCES BELIEVE NDP HAS BEEN HURT DURING DEBATE, AND, SHOULD INFLATIONARY TREND CONTINUE, NDP WILL BE IDENTIFIED WITH LIBERAL INABILITY TO COPE WITH IT. CONVERSE PROBABLY ALSO TRUE, HOWEVER, AND SHOULD ECONOMIC PICTURE BRIGHTEN NDP WILL BE QUICK TO CLAIM CREDIT. COST OF LIVING IS A MAJOR FOCUS OF CANADIAN PUBLIC CONCERN, AND COULD VERY WELL BE MAJOR ISSUE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS OFTEN PREDICTED NEXT JUNE. SEVERAL SPEAKERS AT LIBERAL CONVENTION QUESTIONED GOVERNMENT'S WISDOM IN REFUSING ADOPT WAGE AND PRICE POLICY, OR TEMPORARY PRICE FREEZE ADVOCATED BY PC LEADER STANFIELD. SINCE NO PARTY WANTS ONUS OF FOCING WINTER ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, LIBERALS PROBABLY HAVE ANOTHER EIGHT MONTHS AT LEAST TO DEMONSTRATE EFFECTIVENESS OF ECONOMIC POLITY.
SCHMIDT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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